

REMARKS

The Office Action of July 7, 2010 has been reviewed and the Examiner's comments carefully considered. In the Office Action, the Examiner contends that the application contains groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. Accordingly, the Examiner is requiring restriction between the following groups of inventions:

Group I - Claims 1-4, drawn to a container stopper; and

Group II - Claim 5-9, drawn to a method of manufacturing a container stopper.

The Examiner asserts that the inventions of Groups I and II lack the same or corresponding special technical features.

The Applicants hereby provisionally elect Group I, claims 1-4, drawn to a container stopper.

The Election is made **with** traverse for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Restriction Requirement with respect to Groups I and II. Maintaining the claims of Group II along with Group I would pose no undue burden on the Examiner. While the differences between Group I and Group II may appear significant, the subject matter is interrelated such that when searching and examining the Group I claims, the Examiner will also encounter the subject matter set forth in Group II.

The search required for the examination of the container stopper of Group I would certainly encompass the search required for the examination of Group II method claims, which teach a method of manufacturing a container stopper of Group I.

Accordingly, there is no undue burden on the Examiner for maintaining all of these claims within the same application. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn.

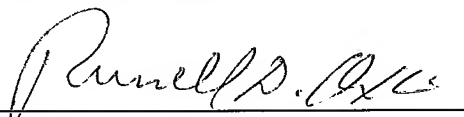
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Should the Restriction Requirement be maintained, Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application or take such other appropriate measures as Applicants deem necessary to protect the inventions recited within the non-elected inventions.

Present examination of claims 1-9 is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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